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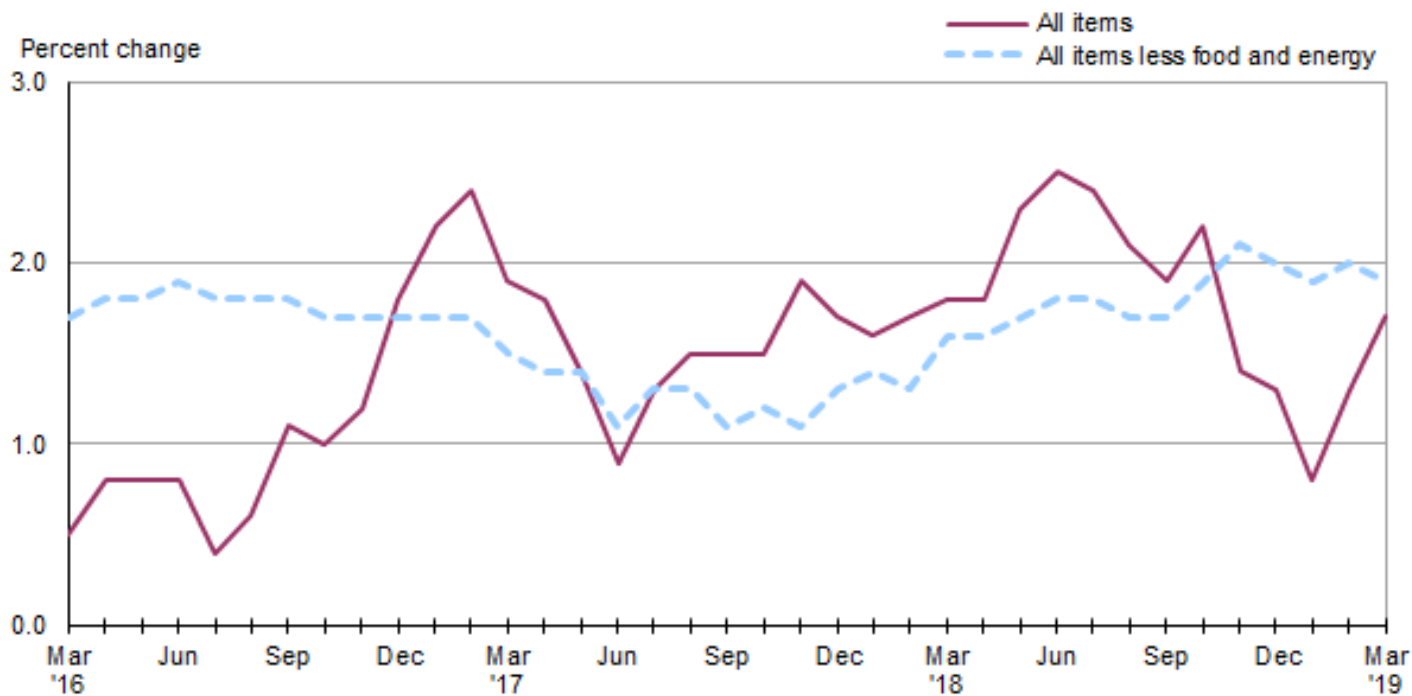
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – March 2019

Prices in the Midwest up 0.6 percent in March and 1.7 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.6 percent in March following a gain of 0.7 percent in the prior month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The March movement was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. Overall, energy costs were up 5.6 percent, while prices for food decreased 0.2 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent after gaining 0.4 percent in each of the prior two months. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The CPI-U for the Midwest rose 1.7 percent over the latest 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 0.5 percent. Food prices increased 1.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.9 percent from March 2018 to March 2019. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, March 2016–March 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were down 0.2 percent from February led by a 0.4-percent decrease in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home crept up 0.1 percent over the month and did little to moderate the decrease.

From March 2018 to March 2019, the index for food advanced 1.4 percent. Costs for food away from home were up 2.4 percent and prices for food at home were 0.6 percent higher over the year.

Energy

The energy index continued to increase for the second month in a row up 5.6 percent in March after increasing 3.6 percent in the prior month. The monthly gain reflected a 12.0-percent increase in prices for gasoline. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service (-1.8 percent) and electricity (-0.3 percent) helped to moderate the increase.

Energy costs decreased 0.5 percent since March 2018 due to declines of 3.3 percent in prices for utility (piped) gas service and 1.2 percent in electricity. Gasoline prices were up 0.7 percent from a year ago.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest increased 0.2 percent following two consecutive monthly increases of 0.4 percent. Among the expenditure categories that registered higher costs were shelter (0.5 percent), new vehicles (1.2 percent) and used cars and trucks (1.0 percent), while prices for apparel (-0.8 percent) and education and communication (-0.3 percent) were among those that declined over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.9 percent from March 2018 to March 2019. Higher costs for shelter (3.6 percent) and medical care services (2.4 percent) were among those that contributed to the increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 236.793 in March 2019. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$236.79 in March 2019.

CPI-W

In March, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 230.728. The CPI-W rose 0.7 percent in March and advanced 1.6 percent over the year.

Table A. Midwest region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.6	-0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7	2.2	0.6	1.6	0.2	0.8
February.....	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	2.4	0.2	1.7	0.7	1.3
March.....	0.6	-0.9	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.9	0.2	1.8	0.6	1.7
April.....	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.8		
May.....	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3		
June.....	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	2.5		
July.....	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.4		
August.....	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.1		
September.....	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.9		
October.....	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.5	0.1	2.2		
November.....	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	0.2	1.9	-0.6	1.4		

Table A. Midwest region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted - Continued

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
December	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.3		

The April 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 10, 2019.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Midwest region is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Midwest Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
All items	233.837	235.444	236.793	1.7	1.3	0.6
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	380.466	383.081	385.275			
Food and beverages	245.739	247.108	246.618	1.4	0.4	-0.2
Food	245.015	246.428	245.913	1.4	0.4	-0.2
Food at home	226.291	228.347	227.372	0.6	0.5	-0.4
Cereals and bakery products	257.690	260.329	259.057	-0.1	0.5	-0.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	244.643	246.053	246.636	0.1	0.8	0.2
Dairy and related products	192.236	193.663	195.000	-1.2	1.4	0.7
Fruits and vegetables	275.248	276.639	272.508	2.6	-1.0	-1.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	162.378	166.935	165.344	3.3	1.8	-1.0
Other food at home	196.556	197.804	196.992	-0.2	0.2	-0.4
Food away from home.....	276.128	276.590	276.762	2.4	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	253.559	254.311	254.159	1.1	0.2	-0.1
Housing	230.194	230.869	231.701	2.9	0.7	0.4
Shelter	275.220	276.593	278.067	3.6	1.0	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1).....	275.503	276.056	276.931	3.3	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) (2).....	280.742	281.362	282.211	3.6	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	280.704	281.322	282.178	3.6	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	222.229	219.218	218.256	-0.6	-1.8	-0.4
Household energy	179.773	176.604	175.292	-1.8	-2.5	-0.7
Energy services(1)	186.445	182.861	181.432	-1.9	-2.7	-0.8
Electricity(1).....	198.814	197.345	196.740	-1.2	-1.0	-0.3
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	154.629	147.886	145.228	-3.3	-6.1	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations	115.068	115.854	115.904	1.5	0.7	0.0
Apparel	114.788	118.579	117.625	-2.1	2.5	-0.8
Transportation	192.640	197.175	203.171	1.1	5.5	3.0
Private transportation	187.855	192.290	198.350	1.2	5.6	3.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	97.115	97.417	98.225	1.3	1.1	0.8
New vehicles	136.017	137.174	138.817	1.4	2.1	1.2
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	96.191	97.025	98.129	1.5	2.0	1.1
New cars(4).....	133.167	133.619	134.805	1.4	1.2	0.9
Used cars and trucks.....	137.526	138.090	139.498	-0.1	1.4	1.0
Motor fuel	187.852	205.451	229.666	0.7	22.3	11.8
Gasoline (all types).....	185.866	203.708	228.058	0.7	22.7	12.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	180.076	197.880	222.025	0.7	23.3	12.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	218.404	236.046	263.142	0.9	20.5	11.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	214.908	229.206	250.871	0.4	16.7	9.5
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	739.537	746.614	744.816	0.9	0.7	-0.2
Medical care	492.369	491.532	491.086	1.8	-0.3	-0.1
Medical care commodities.....	398.544	390.920	391.406	-0.4	-1.8	0.1
Medical care services.....	523.785	525.252	524.491	2.4	0.1	-0.1
Professional services	420.993	421.478	419.222	0.5	-0.4	-0.5
Recreation(3).....	121.229	121.032	121.194	-0.8	0.0	0.1
Education and communication(3).....	137.834	137.823	137.446	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,199.645	1,200.651	1,200.553	1.8	0.1	0.0

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Midwest Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Other goods and services	428.893	431.938	431.444	3.1	0.6	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	175.182	177.477	179.531	0.5	2.5	1.2
Commodities less food and beverages	141.707	144.252	147.172	-0.1	3.9	2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	183.000	188.364	194.239	-0.4	6.1	3.1
Durables	101.268	101.650	102.280	0.3	1.0	0.6
Services.....	294.400	295.269	295.863	2.4	0.5	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	221.334	223.034	224.349	0.8	1.4	0.6
All items less medical care	221.598	223.321	224.755	1.6	1.4	0.6
Commodities less food	145.122	147.634	150.489	0.0	3.7	1.9
Nondurables	213.590	217.123	220.064	0.5	3.0	1.4
Nondurables less food.....	186.773	191.874	197.407	-0.3	5.7	2.9
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	324.074	324.391	324.009	1.3	0.0	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	277.291	278.116	278.811	2.4	0.5	0.2
Energy	182.886	189.411	200.004	-0.5	9.4	5.6
All items less energy	241.825	242.951	243.374	1.8	0.6	0.2
All items less food and energy	241.972	243.049	243.640	1.9	0.7	0.2

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.